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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05
DODE-00 MCE-00 AID-05 /082 W
----------099911 241230Z /53
P R 241135Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2051
INFO USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LISBON
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3943

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, PO, TU
SUBJ: THE AD HOC GROUP ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL (AND TURKEY): THE NEXT STEP.

REF: (A) LISBON 3779 (DTG 221415Z MAY 7), (B) USNATO 4938 (DTG 172105Z MAY 78)

1. WE DEFER TO USNATO AND AMEMBASSY LISBON ON THEIR JUDGMENT THAT THE ALLIES ARE UNLIKELY TO AGREE TO COMMON FUNDING OF THE LIMITED AMOUNTS NECESSARY FOR EFFECTIVE PORTUGUESE MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN NATO. THE PROSPECT OF COMMON FUNDING FOR TURKEY WOULD APPEAR TO BE EVEN MORE DOUBTFUL IF INDEED THIS IS THE CASE. FROM THE ANKARA STANDPOINT, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AD HOC GROUP HAS PRODUCED NO TANGIBLE RESULTS FOR TURKEY TO DATE.

2. DURING HIS RECENT TRAVELS IN THE UK AND THE FRG, PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT MADE CLEAR THAT ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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EMERGING "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT" IS THAT TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO WILL BE COMMENSURATE WITH ALLIED ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. ECEVIT WAS NOT TALKING ONLY ABOUT US SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND THE ISSUE OF THE ARMS EMBARGO, BUT HE CLEARLY BELIEVES THAT THE OTHER ALLIES CAN AND MUST DO MORE IN TERMS OF MEETING TURKEY'S PRESSING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC NEEDS. THE AD HOC GROUP CURRENTLY IS THE ONLY VENUE IN WHICH TURKEY

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CAN PRESENT ITS EQUIPMENT NEEDS IN THE NATO CONTEXT.

3. IN ADDITION, THE TURKS PROBABLY FEEL THAT THE AD HOC GROUP CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN SEARCHING ALLIED INVENTORIES FOR EXCESS/OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT. SINCE THE EMBARGO, TURKEY HAS MAINTAINED MUCH OF ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT THROUGH EXTENSIVE CANNIBALIZATION; IF THE ALLIES CAN MAKE MORE EQUIPMENT AVAIL-ABLE FOR CANNIBALIZATION, TURKEY'S IMMEDIATE AND ACUTE SPARE PARTS PROBLEM CAN BE AMELIORATED TO SOME EXTENT. ALSO, THERE ARE FEW MAJOR END ITEMS EXCESS TO ALLIED NEEDS THAT ARE BEYOND THE CAPABILITIES OF THE TURKS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TURKISH AIR FORCE HAS BEEN FLYING AND MAINTAINING F-104 AIRCRAFT FOR YEARS. IN SHORT, THE AD HOC GROUP STILL HAS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FROM THE TURKISH PERSPECTIVE, EXPECIALLY AS IT APPEARS THAT THE ECEVIT ADMINISTRATION IS ON THE VERGE OF MAKING A MORE VIGOROUS EFFORT TO OBTAIN MILITARY ASSISTANCE FRM ALLIES OTHER THAN THE US.

4. RATHER THAN PHASING OUT THE AD HOC GROUP OR SUBSTITUTING COMMON FUNDING, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE U.S. TAKE THE LEAD IN AN EFFORT TO ENERGIZE, EXPAND, AND FOCUS ATTENTION ON THIS GROUP. FOR TURKEY, SUCH AN EFFORT MIGHT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:
A. PROCEED WITH RAPID IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY TURKISH MATERIEL NEEDS.
B. DEVISE SPECIAL AID PROGRAM/ENLIST OTHER ALLIED CONTRI-
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BUTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF SHORT-TERM MEASURES:
--BUILD-UP OF WAR RESERVE MUNITIONS;
-- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TANK DIESELIZATION;
-- DEVISE PROGRAM FOR TANK UP-GUNNING AND ACQUISTION OF MODERN ARTILLERY;
-- DEVELOP PROGRAM WITH ALLIES FOR MILAN ANTI-TANK MISSILE ACQUISITION.
C. ENCOURAGE/FACILITATE TRANSFER OF F-104 AIRCRAFT AND OTHER U.S.-ORIGIN MATERIEL FROM OTHER ALLIES TO TURKEY.
D. DEVELOP FORCE EFFECTIVENESS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM DESIGNED TO UPGRADE READINESS OF SELECTED NATO-COMMITTED COMBAT UNITS WITHIN SHORT TIME FRAME (E.G., TWO YEARS).
E. LOCATE NATO COMMON TRAINING (E.G. DIVING, EW, PILOT) FACILITIES IN TURKEY.
F. ENSURE THAT AWACS FORWARD OPERATION BASE IS LOCATED IN TURKEY; PROVIDE SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO DEFRAY SOME LOCAL COSTS.
G. INCREASE NUMBER OF NATO EXERCISES INVOLVING TURKISH FORCES.
H. DEVELOP PROGRAM AMONG ALLIES TO ASSIST IN DEFRAYING TRAINING COSTS FOR TURKISH PERSONNEL IN NATO PROGRAMS (E.G., PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, CROSS-TRAINING IN ALLIED MANAGEMENT SCHOOLS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR NATO COMMUNICA-

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TIONS SYSTEM).
8. URGE OTHER ALLIES TO INCREASE THEIR STAFFING AT LANDSOUTHEAST AND SIXATAF HEADQUARTERS.
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